

**MIDDLE ATLANTIC  
Region 1  
HHS-N-276-2011-00003-C  
Professional Development Award: Bioinformatics for  
Librarians  
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## **Executive Summary**

New York University hosted three bioinformatics training workshops for librarians on April 12, 13, and 15-17, 2012, taught by Dr. Diane Rein, a tenured faculty member of the University at Buffalo. Dr. Rein developed and offered two of the workshops (Foundations of Bioinformatics and Searching and Translational (previously named clinical) with funding from the NN/LM during the 2006-2011 contract. The third workshop, BLAST, taught for the first time to librarians, was developed specifically for this offering. Attendance was by invitation and required completion of the two previously discussed workshops or validation of background and relevant credentials by Dr. Rein. The objectives for the workshops were:

- To build a cohort of librarians who can work together to offer bioinformatics training and consultation to other librarians and to faculty at their home institutions.
  - Strengthen Libraries'/Librarians' leadership role in bioinformatics training
- Workshop participants returned to their home institutions with the basic knowledge and skills needed to intelligently discuss bioinformatics with their managers and peers and to provide support roles in bioinformatics for their library and for their end-users. It is our feeling that librarians trained in this manner can help to facilitate and accelerate the progress of biomedical research, including bioinformatics, by improving more integrated access to the databases and information management tools need by their research communities. All three workshops were at capacity attendance, and received an overall rating of "excellent" by students.

### **Minority Populations Served**

African Americans: No  
American Indians/Alaska Natives: No  
Asian Americans: No  
Hispanics/Latinos: No  
Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders: No  
Other: No

## **Approaches and Interventions Used**

New York University hosted three bioinformatics training workshops for librarians on April 12, 13, and 15-17, 2012, taught by Dr. Diane Rein, tenured faculty at the University of Buffalo. Dr. Rein developed and offered two of the workshops (Foundations of Bioinformatics and Searching and Translational (previously named clinical) with funding from the NN/LM during the 2006-2011 contract. The third workshop, BLAST, was developed specifically for this offering; attendance was by invitation and required completion of the two previously discussed workshops or validation of background and relevant credentials by Dr. Rein. The objectives for the workshops were:

- To build a cohort of librarians in New York City who can work together to offer bioinformatics training and consultation to other librarians and to faculty at their home institutions.
  - Strengthen Libraries'/Librarians' leadership role in bioinformatics training
- Workshop participants returned to their home institutions with the basic knowledge and skills needed to intelligently discuss bioinformatics with their managers and peers and to provide support roles in bioinformatics for their library and for their end-users. It is our feeling that librarians trained in this manner can help to facilitate and accelerate the progress of biomedical research, including bioinformatics, by improving more integrated access to the databases and information management tools need by their research communities.

## Evaluation Activities

Attendees completed the Medical Library Association continuing education evaluation form. All three workshops were at capacity attendance, and received an overall rating of "excellent" by students. Further, the instructor, Dr. Diane Rein, wrote the following comment about the BLAST workshop: "My audience clearly comprehended and with one possible exception, attendees are ready and have the skills to teach sequence similarity searching and begin taking reference questions. What is particularly pleasing and satisfying to me, is the fact that I only minimally amended this workshop material (added 3 PPT slides and one 10 minute exercise) from that given to my deeply experienced, bench FACULTY research end-users at my home institution. That means that those librarians willing to put the effort into learning, have the same potential to perform sequence similarity as those who have great depth of biomedical knowledge and expertise."

## **Problems or Barriers Encountered**

No barriers or problems were encountered.

## **Continuation Plans**

Dr. Rein serves as an adviser to the NN/LM training center on Bioinformatics training.

## Impact

All three workshops were at capacity attendance, and received an overall rating of "excellent" by students. It is our feeling that librarians trained in this manner can help to facilitate and accelerate the progress of biomedical research, including bioinformatics, by improving more integrated access to the databases and information management tools need by their research communities. Further, the instructor, Dr. Diane Rein, wrote the following comment about the BLAST workshop: "My audience clearly comprehended and...attendees are ready and have the skills to teach sequence similarity searching and begin taking reference questions. What is particularly pleasing and satisfying to me, is the fact that I only minimally amended this workshop material (added 3 PPT slides and one 10 minute exercise) from that given to my deeply experienced, bench FACULTY research end-users at my home institution. That means that those librarians willing to put the effort into learning, have the same potential to perform sequence similarity as those who have great depth of biomedical knowledge and expertise."

## **Lessons Learned**

It is our feeling that librarians trained in this manner can help to facilitate and accelerate the progress of biomedical research, including bioinformatics, by improving more integrated access to the databases and information management tools need by their research communities.

## Other

N/A

**Attachment 1: AR summary data: Subcontractor activities**